



The President's Daily Brief

February 25, 1974



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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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ISLAMIC SUMMIT

President Sadat has reportedly urged summit conference delegates from oil-producing countries to help relax the oil embargo on the US.

Al-Ahram editor Ali Amin told a US Embassy officer in Lahore that Sadat has met individually with delegations from the oil states. Amin indicated that the delegates all had agreed to recommend that the US be given "most favored nation" status at the next conference in Geneva of the Organization of Arab Producing and Exporting Countries. In a meeting later with reporters, Sadat announced the Arab ministers would meet next month and expressed his hope for some relaxation of the oil ban.

Amin also indicated that Sadat was confident Secretary Kissinger would have a disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria by the time of his visit to Egypt later this week. Sadat told the reporters that progress on Syrian disengagement would be a "good step toward easing everything."

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SOUTH VIETNAM

President Thieu has retired several general officers and province chiefs as part of his current effort to streamline his government and weed out poor performers. Greater efficiency and tighter centralization of day-to-day administrative operations under Prime Minister Khiem were among the major aims of the cabinet reorganization that Thieu ordered last week.

The retirement order affected at least ten generals and a few province chiefs, most of whom are army colonels. Thieu made his decision at a meeting on February 21 attended by Prime Minister Khiem, Vice President Huong, and Joint General Staff Chairman Vien.

At Vien's recommendation, most of the generals marked for retirement were without current assignments, holding lesser positions in the bureaucracy, or serving abroad as ambassadors. Three have been accused publicly of corruption. Although details are not yet available on the province chiefs affected, the meeting discussed the dismissal of as many as 12 deemed lacking either competence or honesty.

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